



MNO La Sierra South Neighborhood
August 1, 2007
Orrenmaa Elementary School

Public Works:

Q - The street at the stop sign on Fillmore has been repaired several times yet the refill did not fix the problem. What can be done?

A - The sinking was next to a manhole identified as property of Western Municipal Water District. The water district sent a trouble shooter out to check the area. No problems with their manhole could be found. We have a request into Riverside Public Utilities to check the area for a water leak. We will continue to patch the area until the problem can be identified.

Q - There are several citizens concerned with auto and pedestrian traffic around Orrenmaa Elementary School and Arizona Middle School before and after school. Can there be more parking and traffic enforcement during those times?

A - The traffic engineer has met with the Principal of Orrenmaa Elementary School and reviewed the drop-off/pickup procedures, parking, circulation, and pedestrian walking patterns. Several suggested changes have been offered to the School and plans were implement at the start of September.; most notably allowing vehicles to now enter the school lot to drop-off or pickup, creating less confusion on Fillmore and a safer, smoother pattern for vehicle and pedestrian flow.

The review of Arizona Middle School will be scheduled in September with that principal to see what possible improvements can be made. The Police Department has already begun enforcing violations at both schools to help assist with safety concerns identified.

Q - The street sweeping program has not been effective for my street as people park their cars on the street the days the sweeper comes by and the sweeper does not seem to really pick up the trash very effectively. What can be done?

A - The Public Works Department has instituted a day change for trash pick up and sweeping services. Both services had been performed on the same day. Effective July 23, trash services were changed by Burrtec from Friday to Wednesday. This allows the City to sweep on Friday per the sweeping schedule without the problem of barrels being in the street on the same day.

There were some older posted signs in the area from the pilot program indicating wrong service days. These signs have been removed and post cards have been sent out to notify residents that the sweeping day has moved to Friday.

Q - There has been an increase in train traffic during the past several years with that increase has been an increase in train noise. Can anything be done to limit the horn blowing or to create quiet zones?

A - The blowing of train horns (when to blow and horn noise decibel level) at railroad crossings are regulated by Federal requirements. The City is looking into creating quiet zones along BNSF and UP railroad tracks. Our planning studies are complete. Public Works Dept. is expecting to make recommendations to the City's Transportation Committee in their regularly scheduled meeting of September 13, after which time the item will go to City Council for consideration.

Q - Trains are impacting traffic on Magnolia Avenue which could make a difference during an emergency. Can there be a train overpass at either Buchanan St. or Pierce Street?

A - The Magnolia railroad crossing is outside the City limits. It is our understanding that the County is at the Planning Stages of a grade separation project at this location, looking into feasible alternatives. You may contact Khalid Nasim, P.E. Project Manager, Department of Transportation, County of Riverside (951) 955-3337 if you need more information in regards to this particular crossing.

At this time the City does not have any plans for grade separating Buchanan or Pierce. However, should the County proceed with grade separating Magnolia then Buchanan will need to be revisited due to its very close proximity to Magnolia crossing.

Q - What is the completion date for Van Buren Avenue street widening? What is the plan for the expansion of the La Sierra overpass?

A - The estimated completion date for the Van Buren Avenue Street Widening is the end of February 2008

Q - What is the plan for the expansion of the La Sierra overpass?

A - The City of Riverside, in cooperation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) will be constructing the La Sierra Avenue/State Route 91 interchange Improvements. This \$38 million dollar project is the third and final phase of a joint effort by the City and County of Riverside to improve La Sierra Avenue from El Sobrante Road, near Lake Mathews, to State Route 91.

The project will enhance the capacity and operation of the interchange. The project will extend from Diana Avenue/Montlake Drive to the north to Indiana Avenue in the south and extend about 3,000 feet along State Route 91.

The project will replace the existing freeway over crossing and the railroad overpass with a new six lane bridge with dual left turn lanes. The freeway ramps would retain their current configuration and would be widened to three lanes.

Several retaining walls would be constructed along the interchange ramps. The area surrounding the ramps will be landscaped in conjunction with the project.

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in October 2007 and is expected to take 22 months to complete. The bridge structures will be built in two phases allowing the existing bridges to remain open while half of the new bridges are constructed. Traffic will then be shifted on to the new structures while the existing structures are demolished and the second half of the new bridges are completed.

Periodic night time freeway closures and limited ramp closures should be anticipated during the duration of the project. There may also be short periods of time when traffic lanes on La Sierra Avenue will be closed. However, access to properties will be maintained at all times during construction.

Code Enforcement

Q - Because people are home more on the weekend, there seem to be more code violations on the weekend which need to be reviewed by City staff. Do Code Enforcement officers work on weekends?

A - Code Enforcement in the City of Riverside operates 7 days a week and is regularly open to calls from the public during Monday through Friday. Currently, 311 Call Center may receive calls from public on the weekends and dispatch officers if the matter is of an urgent nature. Code Enforcement is planning to increase weekend responses through the assistance of our newly formed CODE 51 Code Enforcement Community Volunteer Program. For any additional concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 951-826-5633.

Police

Q - How can the City help minimize the adult indigents that "hang out" all day at places like Circle K at Pierce and the 91 Freeway, AM/PM Gas Station on Magnolia and Pierce and Stater Bros on La Sierra and near the La Sierra Library?

A - Please call 911 if the subject is aggressive or threatening. The Municipal Code restricts aggressive panhandling throughout the city. The non-emergency telephone number 787-7911 can be used to report mere vagrancy. Officers will evaluate the individual(s) and often request assistance of the mental health professionals of the City's Homeless Outreach team. In any case, please report the activity so it can be addressed quickly.

Other

Q - Is the "211" phone number operating?

A – Yes. 2-1-1 Riverside is a comprehensive Information and Referral agency consisting of a comprehensive database and call center managed by trained staff, most of whom are certified and bilingual. Free telephone access to this service is available by dialing 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 Riverside database stores detailed information about community agencies and the service they provide. Over 800 non-profit and governmental human service agencies with more than 2000 programs are listed in this database.

Q - When will the high school at Pierce Street start?

A - The Alvord Unified School District Board of Supervisors has proposed a Bond Measure for the November ballot. The success of that bond measure will determine when the District can begin the project.